

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PETERSFIELD.
=====Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year 1943.

To The Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your information, the Annual Public Health Report of the Petersfield Rural District Area, for the year 1943.

The Report, under instructions from the Ministry of Health, is again much curtailed and will, I believe, meet with their requirements.

The Health of the population generally, has been very satisfactory, bearing in mind the very adverse conditions under which a very large number of the population has had to live.

No interruption whatsoever took place at any time during the period under Report, of any of the essential services of the District.

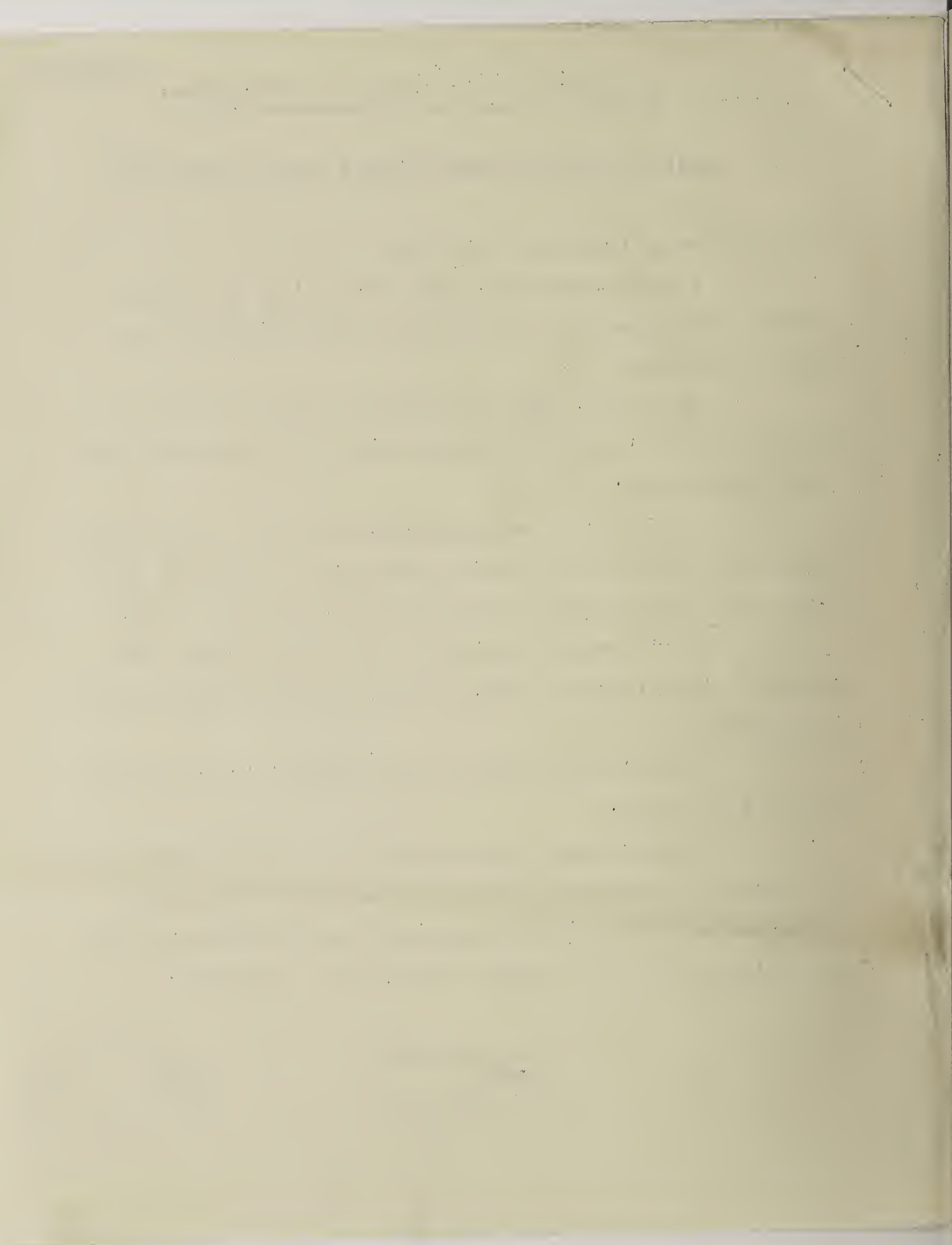
I held medical charge of the District for the entire period under review.

In conclusion, I must express my grateful thanks to the entire Public Health Staff, for their loyal co-operation throughout the year, but more especially to both Mr Thomas and Mr Chamings, for their valuable and energetic assistance.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. M. [Signature]





STATISTICS.

Area of District	56.155 acres.
Population	16,000. (Estimated normal)
Population of 1943.	20,000 (Estimated)
No. of Inhabited houses	4950
No. of Assessments	5596
Rateable Value	£112,138
Product of a Penny Rate	£466

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Live Births

	M	F	Total	Total 1942
Legitimate	150	156	306	336
Illegitimate	14	18	32	15

Still Births

Legitimate	8	7	15	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated population				16.48
Corresponding figure for 1942				16.71
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.				44.37
Corresponding figure for 1942				29.32

Deaths

	M	F	Total	Total 1942
	107	120	227	231

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Resident population	11.07
Corresponding figure for 1942	10.57
Death Rate per 1,000 England and Wales	12.10
Corresponding figure for 1942	11.67

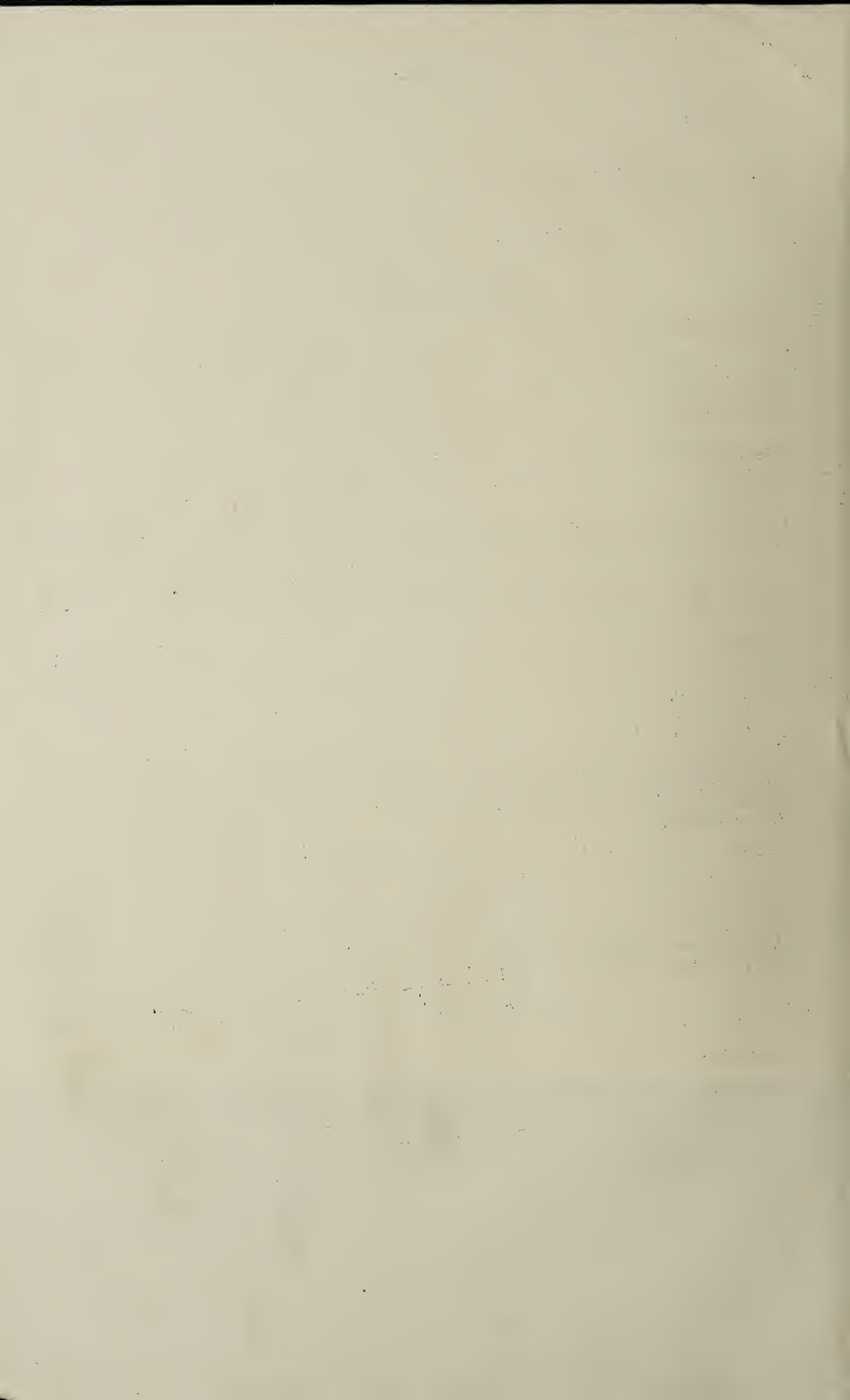
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	41.41
Corresponding figure for 1942.	44.32
Corresponding figures (England and Wales) 1942.	49.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births.	38.46
Corresponding figure for 1942.	47.60

Causes of Death.

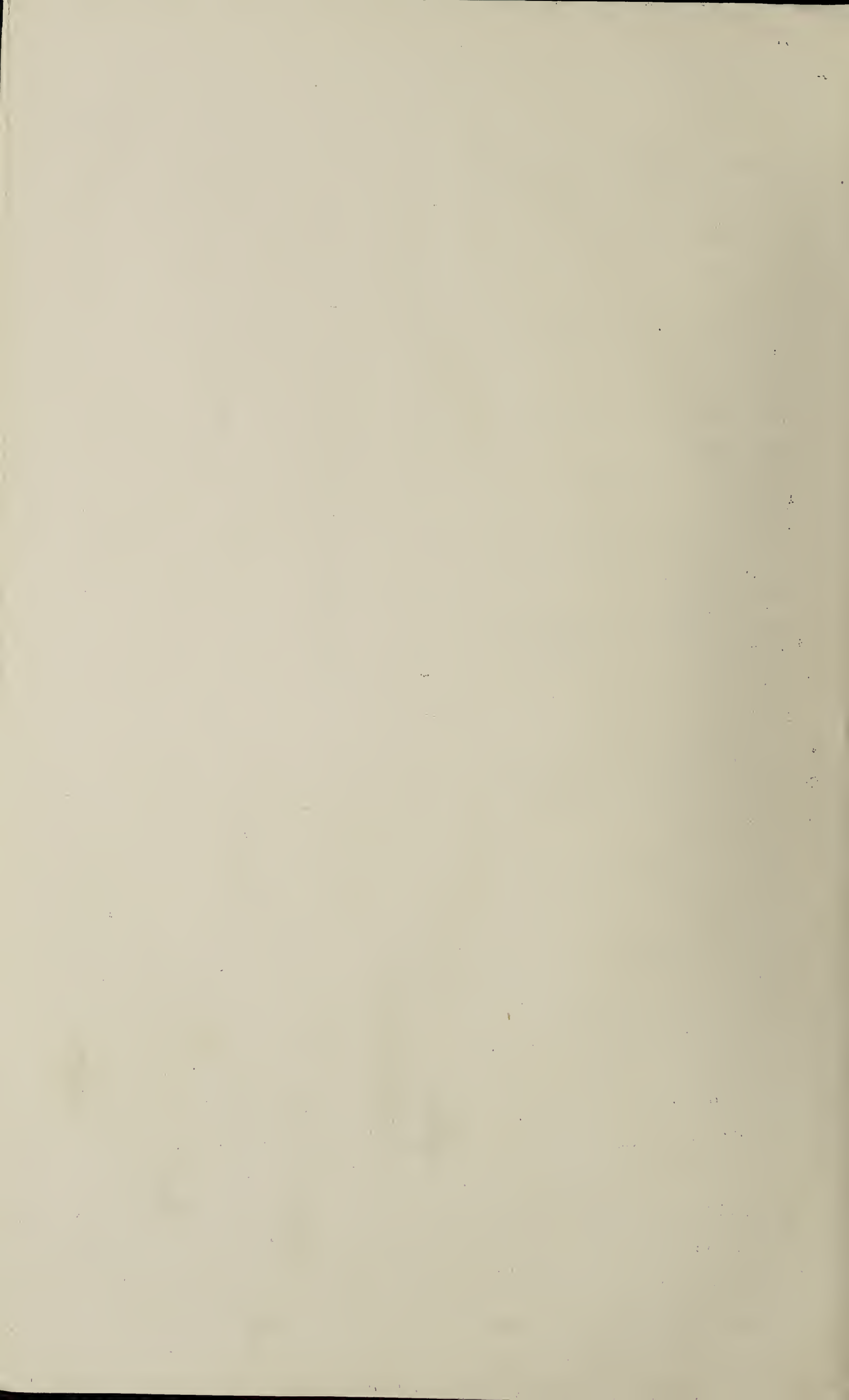
	M	F	Total.	Total 1942.
Typhoid.	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-
Scarlett Fever.	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	1	1	2	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-





	M	F	Total	Total 1942.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory System)	5	1	6	13
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	-	1	1	
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-
Influenza	4	8	12	-
Measles	-	1	1	1
Cancer Buc.Cav. and Oesoph (M)	2	-	2	36
Cancer Uterus (F)	-	2	2	
Cancer Stomach and Duodenum	2	5	7	
Cancer Breast	-	3	3	
Cancer All other forms	13	8	21	
Diabetis	-	2	2	1
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	4	18	22	19
Heart Disease	25	34	59	64
Other Disorders of Circulatory System	3	2	5	6
Bronchitis	4	6	10	3
Pneumonia	3	1	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	5	-	5	1
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	1	2	3	2
Appendicitis	-	-	-	1
Other Digestive Disorders	3	1	4	11
Nephritis	3	3	6	4
Premature Birth	-	4	4	2
Suicide	2	2	4	4
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5	3
Other Violent Causes	5	2	7	7
All Other Cases	15	9	24	37
	107	120	227	231

It is gratifying to record that there were no deaths during the year, from Typhoid Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria. This may be regarded as extremely satisfactory especially in view of the considerable temporary overcrowding in the area and to the movement of a percentage of the population to



and from adjoining populated centres.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer in its several forms and also that of Heart Failure are again predominant. The deaths from Cancer represent 15.4% of the total deaths, and that from Heart Disease, 26% as compared with 15.1% and 27.7% respectively for the previous year.

The District, being predominantly Residential, has no conditions of labour or environment which might adversely affect the general health of the community. Under present conditions, a large percentage of the adult population is employed directly, or indirectly, on the production of War material, principally in the adjoining larger centres. There are however, a few small factories and workshops within the District engaged on Essential work, but this is more or less of a temporary character.

The health of children of School age, has been generally satisfactory and in the course of School Medical Inspection no cases of malnutrition were recorded.

We welcome the Education Authority's Scheme for the provision of a hot mid-day meal for children at a number of schools. This facility is desirable at every school, but the need is definitely more pronounced in the more Rural area where children of school attending age, have perforce to walk long distances to and from School and in all weathers. We look forward to the day when all Rural Schools will enjoy this facility and express the hope that the scheme will be adopted as a permanent measure.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases Notified.

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
Scarlet Fever	23	24	34
Whooping Cough	23	41	82
Diphtheria	4	6	1
Erysipelas	4	4	8
Measles	104	127	540
Pneumonia	6	6	4

Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	4
Typhoid	-	-	3
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Total	165	209	678
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It is gratifying to note that the incidence of Infectious Diseases shows an appreciable decrease as compared with the preceeding year and a substantial decrease as compared with the figures for 1941.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The Health Services provided for and available to the general public include the following:-

An Ambulance Service for the removal of Infectious Cases, is provided by the Petersfield Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital. This service covers the whole of the District.

General Hospital Treatment is available at the Petersfield and Haslemere Hospitals. Provision is also made for the nursing of cases of Sick Children at Heath House, Petersfield and at Moorey's Liss. Nursing Associations provide and maintain nurses in practically every parish in the District. The Health Visitors of the County Council make visits in the case of Infectious Diseases, regularly visit all Schools, and are available for other work in case of emergency.

Laboratory facilities for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are available at the County Laboratory, Winchester.

Midwifery is undertaken by practically all District Nurses.

Temporary Maternity Hospitals are established at Collyers, Steep, and Chiltley Place, Liphook. The former is primarily for evacuated mothers, while the latter is maintained by the Portsmouth City Council. Both Hospitals take in local cases, if and when accommodation is available.

The need for a General Maternity Hospital for the District has been very evident for a considerable time, especially for families who normally cannot afford the expense of private Nursing Homes. Measures for the prevention of confinements taking place

under^{un}favourable conditions are much overdue and urgently call for the closest attention of the Council. It is gratifying to record that at the end of the year, a definite move forward in regard to the provision of a Maternity Home, was actively engaging the attention of both the Petersfield Rural and Urban Councils. The matter should be actively and vigorously pressed home to the County Authority.

CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Anti Natal Clinics are available at Liphook, Lids, Petersfield and Havant.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are provided at Horndean, Liphook, Liss, Petersfield, Rowlands Castle and Hawkley. These Centres are well patronised and appreciated.

Orthopaedic Clinics available for the District are Centred at Havant and Alton.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary serving a large area is available at Havant.

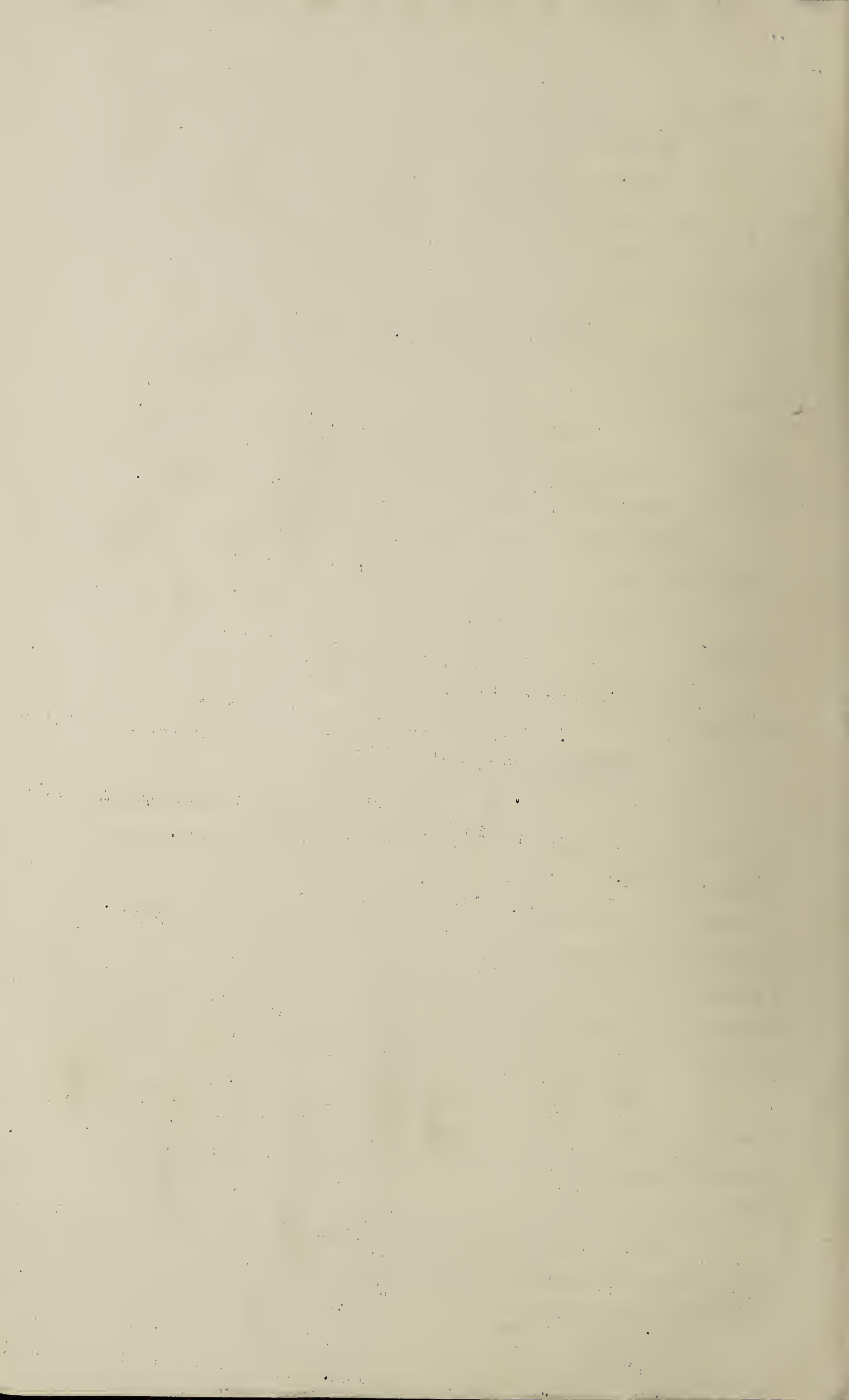
The Venereal Disease Treatment Centre at Portsmouth, is available to residents in the Petersfield Rural District.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease recorded during the year, may be regarded as normal, having regard to the continued overcrowded state of a large number of the type of house described as Working Class Dwellings. The incidence of Infectious Diseases, however, shows a marked improvement on the preceeding two years. No serious outbreak of any form of Infectious Disease, was recorded. Practically all cases of Infectious disease were treated at the local Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.

A number of cases of Scabies, as usual were reported, as in previous years. All were prevailed upon to attend at the Isolation Hospital for treatment. All infected clothing was also disinfected.

I am to express my grateful thanks to the Matron and Staff at the Isolation Hospital for their ready co-operation in the treatment of these cases.



A number of cases of Dysentery were recorded at premises in the District, which are used as a Resident School by Junior children from Portsmouth. By arrangement, these children were removed to the Portsmouth Isolation Hospital for treatment.

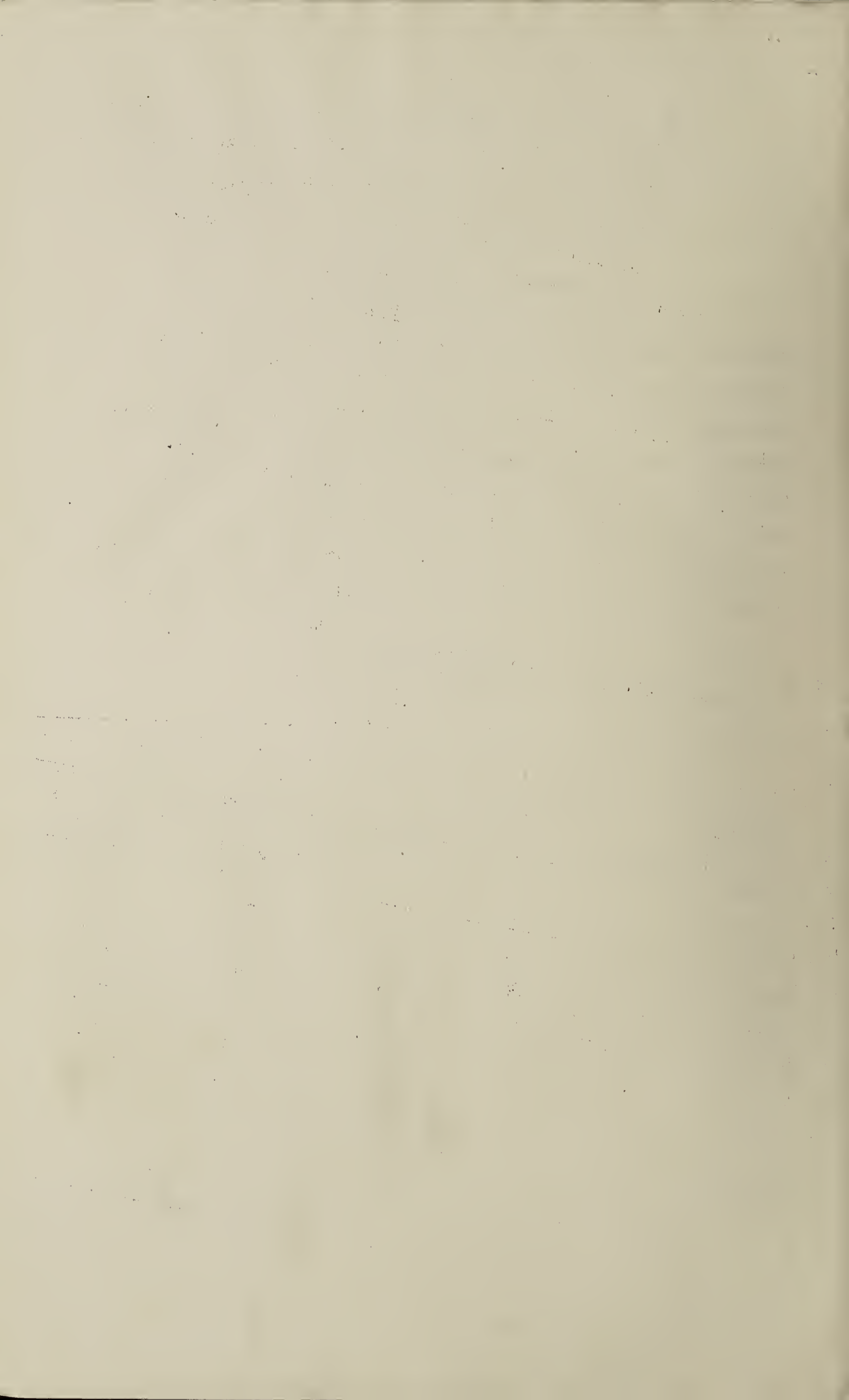
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Very satisfactory progress was made in the matter of preventive inoculation against this disease, of children under 15 years of age in the area. A total of 987 operations were performed. The area may now be considered to be thoroughly well protected by inoculation against this most serious disease. There were only four cases of Diphtheria during the year under review, three of which were in children under 15 years of age. One child had received protective treatment and the remaining two had not. There were no deaths from this disease in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases recorded, and mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases		Deaths	
	Respiratory	Non Respiratory	Respiratory	Non Respiratory.
0 years	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	-	-
5 - 15	-	2	-	-
15 - 25	5	-	-	-
25 - 35	4	1	3	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	2	-
65 upwards	1	-	-	-



WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirteen parishes constituting the Petersfield Rural District, five parishes are supplied with water by Statutory Undertakings, viz.-- two by the Wey Valley Water Co., and three by the Portsmouth Water Co.

The supply in these parishes has always been adequate, constant, and of excellent quality.

The water supplied by the Portsmouth Water Co., derived from the chalk formation, is of moderate hardness, while that supplied by the Wey Valley Water Co., is of a "Soft" character, but having no solvent action on lead or other metal.

These supplies may be regarded as being satisfactory in every respect.

Of the eight other parishes, five are supplied from your own Council's Undertakings and two parishes supplied by water purchased in Bulk, from other Undertakings.

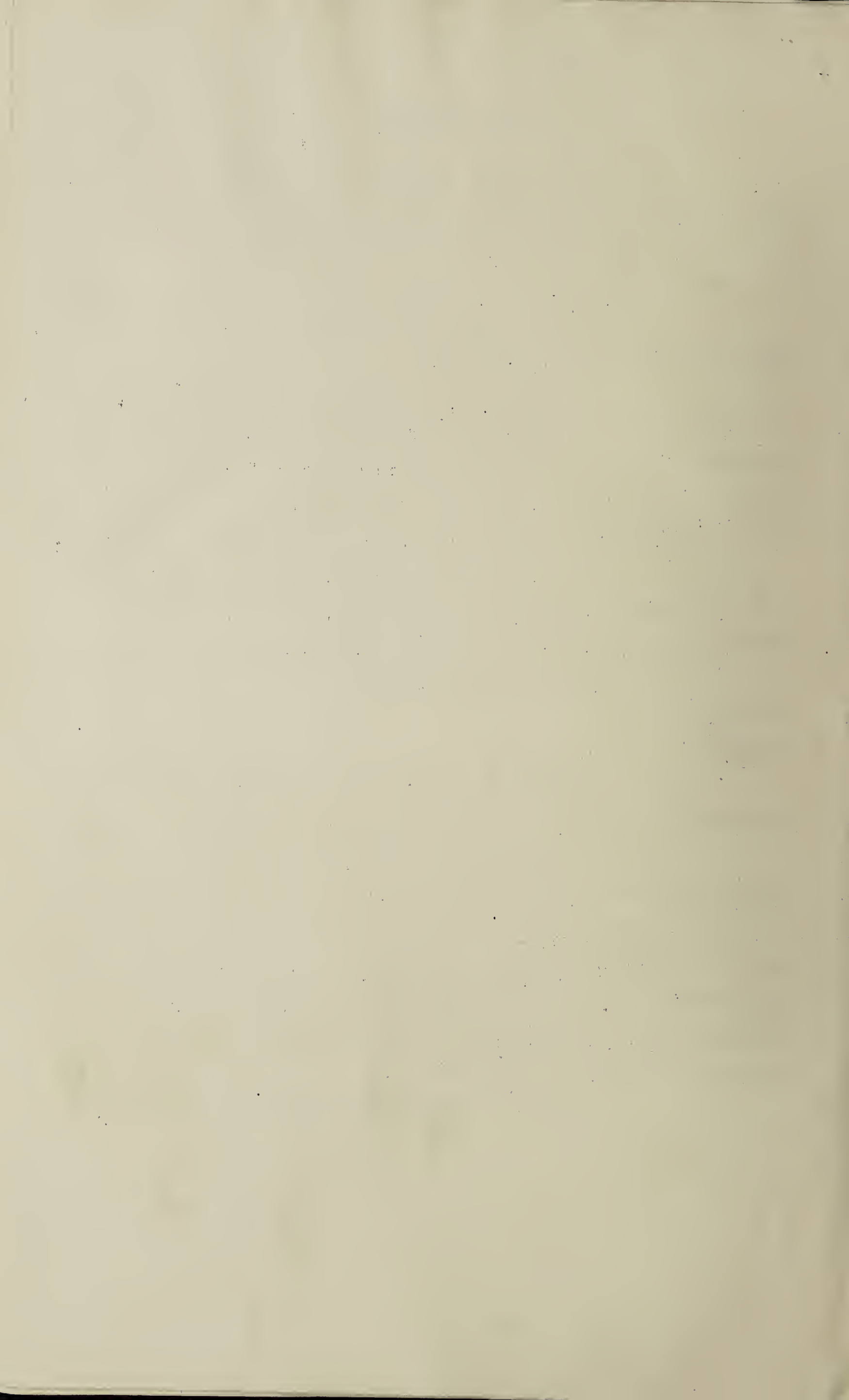
Of your own Undertakings, I have to report as follows:-

BURITON.

This supply is obtained from a Well in the Chalk formation and situated at the foot of the Downs.

The yield at the source is prolific during the winter months, but during dry summer periods, as experienced in the past two years, the yield falls considerably and is only barely sufficient for the requirements of the area supplied. It is recommended that your Council should consider means for the provision of a more abundant supply, especially in view of the Council's decision to provide sewerage for the village.

The quality of the water is always satisfactory.



FROXFIELD.

The water supply in this area may be regarded as satisfactory in every respect.

The yield of the Springs at Ashford is more than adequate and a constant supply was maintained throughout the year.

The water is obtained from the chalk formation and is of fair quality, but is liable to variation in Bacterial content. As a precautionary measure, all water is sterilised at the source and all samples taken from the service mains during the year, were found satisfactory.

The service has proved a tremendous boon to the inhabitants of Froxfield and Privett, who formerly were entirely dependant on Rain Water Storage and where practically all habitations are situated at between 700 and 800 O.D.

HAWKLEY.

The Hawkley and Empshott areas are supplied with water drawn from the chalk formation above Hawkley Mill.

The yield of the Well at the Pumping Station is abundant.

The Quality of the water is however subject to fluctuation, especially after heavy rain. As a precautionary measure, your Council recently resolved to install a Sterilising Plant at the Pumping Station. This Plant was installed at the end of the year, since when, all water pumped from the source, has been sterilised.

LISS.

The Liss area including a part of the Rural District of Midhurst, is supplied from two sources, viz.- from Boscombe, in the chalk formation, and from Palmers Farm, where the water is drawn from the Upper Green Sand.

During the past year a full service was maintained throughout the area, but during the summer months, as a result of the low rainfall and also the present abnormal consumption in the area, the margin between requirements and yield at the two sources of supply, was almost eliminated.

The quality of the water remained satisfactory throughout the year.

Sterilising Plants are installed at the two sources of supply and all water consumed was treated sufficiently to show a small chlorine residual content.

At the end of the year the Council had resolved to link up the Hawkley and Liss Services, in order that the Liss supply may be augmented as necessary, from the abundant supply at the Hawkley source.

The water from the Doscombe source, being drawn from the chalk formation, has a Hardness content of approximately 12 degrees, while the water drawn from Palmers Farm, (drawn from the Upper Green Sand) contains a Hardness content of only 3 degrees. This latter supply, although bacteriologically pure, has a very small iron and acid content, but not sufficient to have any solvent action on lead etc. In order to neutralise the iron and acid content, the water is treated with a lime solution, before being pumped into the Service Reservoirs.

EAST MEON.

The water supply from this area, is purchased in bulk from the Leydene Estate.

The water is pumped from Borhooes in the chalk formation and is characteristic of water drawn from similar sources.

The Council has no control over the source of supply, but periodical samples are taken from the service mains for analysis.

The supply is satisfactory and adequate for the present requirements of the area.

LANGRISH AND STEEP PARISHES.

Water for these two parishes is obtained from the services of the adjoining Urban Council.

In Langrish, water is purchased in bulk quantity and distributed by your Council, while in the Steep area, the water is supplied and distributed by the Urban Council.

In both areas the supply during the year was both adequate and satisfactory.

COLEMORE AND PRIORSDENE.

This is the only parish in your District which has not a piped water service.

The parish is very scattered and is purely Agricultural in character.

The demand for a wholesome supply of water for Agricultural purposes, is increasing rapidly and the Council will no doubt have to meet a considerable demand in this direction, in the immediate post war years.

At the end of the year, your Council had under consideration, a Scheme to supply practically the whole of this parish with water both for domestic and Agricultural purposes.

The production of milk has become a matter of major national importance and as such, the question of Agricultural water supplies, should likewise be a national matter, substantially subsidised in order that Statutory Undertakers and Local Authorities may be enabled to carry out works of water supply, on a broader scale than hitherto, when finance had perforce, to be the determining factor.

GENERALLY.

Your Water Supplies may be regarded as satisfactory but in some cases, your Council will soon have to consider augmenting existing supplies, having regard to increasing demands and also to increased consumption, as the result of further Sewage Disposal facilities.

5.
SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The circumstances in regard to Sewage Disposal is similar to that reported for the previous year.

The only Disposal works which may be regarded as not altogether satisfactory, is that for the Liss Area, where the discharge at the outfall continues to be in excess of the capacity of the Works. It should be explained that this condition is not the result of an increase in the quantity of Sewage collected, but is caused by the considerable amount of infiltration of ground water, as practically all sewers in this area, are laid in soil heavily charged with water.

The resultant discharge at the Works, may be regarded as "Weak" Sewage, and the quantity passed through the Filters is therefore above normal.

In the programme for Post War Work, the Council has decided that priority be given to the following:-

Extension at the Liss Sewage Works.

Sewage Disposal for the villages of Buriton and East Moon.

HOUSING.

As in the previous year, there was a complete standstill with regard to the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise. Under the Ministry's Scheme for the provision of 3,000 cottages for persons employed in Agriculture, an allocation of eight cottages was made to this District.

The erection of these cottages was put in hand as soon as possible and at the end of the year, some of the cottages were nearing completion.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Housing Act of 1936 a number of Inspections were made of dwellings within the District, and appropriate action taken when necessary. Every possible assistance was given to property owners in regard to the obtaining of the necessary material and labour for the execution of repairs, etc.

The major question of Post War Housing is now very much before Parliament and the Country, and it is at present difficult to anticipate what the situation will be within the District. There is every indication at present that Private Enterprise will be prepared to meet the need to a large extent, should material and labour be available, and assuming also that the cost of Building will be such as to encourage such development.

It is apparent however, that a substantial number of new cottages will have to be erected in the immediate Post War years to meet normal requirements and also to make good the arrears of the past four years.. Whatever the number of cottages decided on as necessary, it is to hoped that conditions will permit them to be erected principally of the local conventional materials.

